Scope of the Journal

ACS Chemical Neuroscience publishes high-quality research articles and reviews that showcase chemical, quantitative biological, biophysical and bioengineering approaches to the understanding of the nervous system and to the development of new treatments for neurological disorders. Research in the journal focuses on aspects of chemical neurobiology and bio-neurochemistry such as the following:

- Neurotransmitters and receptors
- Neuropharmaceuticals and therapeutics
- Neural development—Plasticity, and degeneration
- Chemical, physical, and computational methods in neuroscience
- Neuronal diseases—basis, detection, and treatment
- Mechanism of aging, learning, memory and behavior
- Pain and sensory processing
- Neurotoxins
- Neuroscience-inspired bioengineering
- Development of methods in chemical neurobiology
- Neuroimaging agents and technologies
- Animal models for central nervous system diseases
- Behavioral research

Research articles reporting the identification of general principles that govern how information is processed by neuronal circuits; or using genetic model systems in conjunction with computational biology, imaging, electrophysiological, and computational neuroscience (neuroinformatics) are also welcomed.

Manuscript Types

ACS Chemical Neuroscience publishes research Letters, Articles, Reviews and Perspectives as well as specially commissioned Viewpoint publications that highlight recent developments and further the understanding of chemical neuroscience. The editors welcome the submission of papers in the following categories:

**Letters.** Short reports of original research focused on an individual significant finding. Letters are peerreviewed and begin with an unreferenced abstract of less than 150 words. Abstracts should not contain abbreviations or acronyms unless essential. Letters include unheaded sections for the Introduction and combined Results and Discussion. Letters include a headed section for Methods that can also contain subsections; the Methods section should appear at the end of the manuscript. Letters should contain 4– 6 display items (figures/tables/schemes) and ~30 references. Letters should include sufficient experimental detail to allow others to reproduce the findings presented. Supporting Information is encouraged. Letters should be approximately 4500 words or less in length, including the abstract, body text, methods, references, and figure/scheme legends. Letters include a graphical Table of Contents entry.

**Articles.** Concise, yet comprehensive, original research presenting an advance of immediate,
broad, and lasting impact. Articles are not intended to be follow-up papers, unless they contain new and extensive information that will advance the understanding of the system or biological process. Articles are peerreviewed and contain an unreferenced abstract of 250 words or less. Abstracts should not contain abbreviations or acronyms unless essential. A referenced introduction should expand on the background of the work. Articles include the following headed sections: Introduction, combined Results and Discussion, and Methods. Methods should appear at the end of the manuscript, following the Results and Discussion section. In general, Articles include 8–10 display items (figures/tables/schemes) and ~50 references. Supporting Information may be included. Articles include a graphical Table of Contents entry.

**Reviews.** Topical, brief, and of general interest to the readership. Reviews are peer-reviewed and contain an unreferenced abstract of 250 words or less. A good review critically evaluates existing work, provides a logical organization, and makes the material more easily available to those not expert in the area through clear text and figures. Reviews should contain <5000 words, ~100 references, and the use of graphics (35 figures) to illustrate key concepts is strongly encouraged. Authors are required to request permission to use graphics that are reproduced or adapted from other sources. Please see http://pubs.acs.org/page/copyright/index.html for specific guidelines. Include a graphical Table of Contents entry consisting of a colorful figure that represents the topic of the review. Authors may choose to divide the review into sections preceded by headings. Finally, the journal recommends that authors define key words used in the review and key concepts in separate textboxes.

**Perspectives.** Perspective review articles are designed to communicate a focused (as opposed to comprehensive) review of the most exciting new developments in a field or area and with an eye toward guiding future research. Authorship is usually by invitation, but suggestions of both topics and authors are welcome. Topics that have been extensively reviewed recently in other journals will not be considered. Perspective submissions may contain up to 60 references and up to 7 figures, and are expected to occupy approximately 47 pages of printed text. Authors are required to request permission to use graphics that are reproduced or adapted from other sources. Please see http://pubs.acs.org/page/copyright/index.html for specific guidelines. Perspective articles will be peerreviewed to ensure accuracy and balance, and will appear in the front of an issue. Perspectives include a graphical Table of Contents entry.

In addition to peer-reviewed content, the journal also publishes the In This Issue piece, a feature devoted to highlighting research in the journal. Editors also commission Viewpoint pieces which include general commentaries, tutorials, and technical notes of immediate interest to the broad readership. Viewpoint pieces are not peer-reviewed.

**Viewpoints.** Viewpoint pieces provide a forum in which scientific news can be communicated to a wide audience. These articles should make clear the advance, communicate a sense of excitement, and yet provide a critical evaluation of the work in the context of the rest of the field. The Viewpoint should explain why the topic is exciting to both the biologists and the chemists who read the journal. The Viewpoint should start with a brief abstract (13 sentences long) and should not include any references. We highly recommend at least one Figure and can usually accommodate two. Titles should be limited to 30 characters (including spaces) and contain no punctuation marks or abbreviations. Viewpoint articles should occupy no more than 3 printed pages (~1200 words) and must be limited to five (5) references. Viewpoint articles are typically invited, but authors can also submit proposals for Viewpoint topics they plan to write on, pending approval by the editors.

**ACS Publishing Center**
While this document will provide basic information on how to prepare and submit the manuscript as well as other critical information about publishing, we also encourage authors to visit the ACS Publishing Center for additional information on everything that is needed to prepare (and review) manuscripts for ACS journals and partner journals, such as

- **Mastering the Art of Scientific Publication**, which shares editor tips about a variety of topics including making your paper scientifically effective, preparing excellent graphics, and writing cover letters.
- Resources on [how to prepare and submit a manuscript](#) to ACS Paragon Plus, ACS Publications’ manuscript submission and peer review environment, including details on selecting the applicable [Journal Publishing Agreement](#).
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- [ACS Author Lab](#), a free online course that empowers authors to prepare and submit strong manuscripts, avoiding errors that could lead to delays in the publication process.
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### Manuscript Preparation

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- Submissions must be complete with clearly identified standard sections used to report original research, free of annotations or highlights, and include all numbered and labeled components.
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- References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles. For information about the required components of different reference types, please refer to the [ACS Style Quick Guide](#).
- Supporting Information must be submitted as a separate file(s).

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The templates facilitate the peer review process by allowing authors to place artwork and tables close to the point where they are discussed within the text. Learn more about document templates [here](#).

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Acceptable Software, File Designations, and TeX/LaTeX

See the list of Acceptable Software and appropriate File Designations to be sure your file types are compatible with ACS Paragon Plus. Information for manuscripts generated from TeX/LaTeX is also available.

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A cover letter must accompany every manuscript submission. During the submission process, you may type it or paste it into the submission system, or you may attach it as a file.

A cover letter must contain the following elements:

- Manuscript title
- Name of the corresponding author
- Name(s) of any other author(s)
- A paragraph explaining why the paper is appropriate for ACS Chemical Neuroscience
- Note whether the manuscript was discussed with an ACS Chemical Neuroscience Editor before submission
- Short (~150 word) lay-summary (at the level of an undergraduate in biochemistry) describing the significance of the study for a broad audience

If your manuscript is accepted for publication, ACS Chemical Neuroscience may choose to modify, edit, and publish your lay-summary in the In This Issue feature of the journal. The journal may also promote your research article through press communications.

Manuscript Text Components

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Abstract. All Articles, Letters, Reviews, and Viewpoints must contain an abstract, which should provide a succinct, informative summation of the most important results and conclusions. Ideally, an abstract should be less than 200 words. Abbreviations should be used sparingly and spelled out when first used. The abstract should be written in complete sentences without the use of subheadings or specialized jargon. As a guideline, an abstract should be accessible to a junior graduate student in the field so as to be accessible to a broad audience.

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If the manuscript is accompanied by any supporting information files for publication, these files will be made available free of charge to readers. A brief, nonsentence description of the actual contents of each file, including the file type extension, is required. This description should be labeled Supporting Information and should appear before the Acknowledgement and Reference sections. Examples of sufficient and insufficient descriptions are as follows:

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When including supporting information for review only, include copies of references that are unpublished or in-press. These files are available only to editors and reviewers.

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Data Requirements

Material and Data Availability

ACS Chemical Neuroscience understands that communication and collaboration between chemists and biologists are significantly enhanced when materials and data can be exchanged among scientists. Therefore, a condition of publication is that authors are required to make
materials, data, and protocols available to readers through deposition in a publicly used database. Hosting on an author’s Web site is not an acceptable substitute. Authors also agree to make available to interested academic researchers for their own use any materials reported in their manuscript that are not otherwise obtainable. Any restrictions to the availability of materials or information must be stated at the time of submission.

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Appendix 1: PREPARING FOR SUBMISSION

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Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the Experimental Section of a full article and included in the main text of a letter. Statement examples can be found in the Safety Statement Style Sheet and additional information on communicating safety information from the ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication is freely available here.

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Appendix 2: Preparing Graphics

Resolution

Digital graphics pasted into manuscripts should have the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white line art, 1200 dpi
- Grayscale art, 600 dpi
- Color art, 300 dpi

Size

Graphics must fit a one- or two-column format. Single-column graphics can be sized up to 240 points wide (3.33 in.) and double-column graphics must be sized between 300 and 504 points (4.167 in. and 7 in.). The maximum depth for all graphics is 660 points (9.167 in.) including the caption (allow 12 pts. For each line of caption text). Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points in the final published format. The text should be legible when the graphic is viewed full-size. Helvetica or Arial fonts work well for lettering. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point.

Color
Color may be used to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, and schemes, etc., and color reproduction of graphics is provided at no additional cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

**Type of Graphics**

**Table of Contents (TOC)/Abstract Graphic**

Consult the Guidelines for [Table of Contents/Abstract Graphics](#) for specifications. Our team of subject-matter experts and graphical designers can also help generate a compelling TOC graphic to convey your key findings. Learn more about our [Graphical Abstract service](#).

**Figures**

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description must be included below each figure. The caption should be understandable without reference to the text. It is preferable to place any key to symbols used in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the artwork.

**Charts**

Charts (groups of structures that do not show reactions) may have a brief caption describing their contents.

**Tables**

Each table must have a brief (one phrase or sentence) title that describes the contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly in the narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful inter-relationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise.

**Schemes**

Each scheme (sequences of reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

**Chemical Structures**

Chemical structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw.

**Cover Art**

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Cover image submissions should be scientifically and visually exciting. Colorful images without text or structures are preferred. The cover image should not resemble a graphical abstract or data figure, but rather should be an artistic and scientifically accurate representation of the manuscript. For examples of cover art designs, please refer to recent issues.

Image files should be submitted as TIF, JPG, PNG or EPS files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi for pixel-based images. Images should be 8.19 in × 10.00 in. (or 20.80 cm × 25.40 cm). Please note that the journal title will cover the top 2 in. (5.08 cm) of the image. Authors should submit the cover image, along with a short, clear legend (less than 50 words) explaining the image, as supplementary files to ACS Paragon Plus with their revised manuscript.

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